

Diary of E. P. Edes
From Maine to the California Gold Fields
April to November 1857

TIME LINE

Leave Foxcroft		4/29/1857
Arrive Bangor		4/29/1857 @ 7 pm
Leave Bangor	Thur	4/30/1858 @ 11 am
Arrive Boston	Thur	4/31/1857 @ 7 am
Leave Boston	Fri	5/1/1857 @ 5:30
Arrive Fall River	Fri	5/1/1857 @ 7:30
Leave Fall River via steamer "Empire State"		
Arrive New York	Sat	5/2/1857 am
Leave New York	Tue	5/5/1857 2 pm via "Illinois"
Pass Kingston, Jamaica Mon 5/11/1857 On account of contagious disease on board, Illinois does not stop at this port.		
Arrive Aspinwall	Thur	5/14/1857 @ 12:00 pm
Leave Aspinwall	Fri	5/15/1857 @ 8:30 am
Arrive Panama	Fri	5/15/1857 @ 1 pm
Leave Panama	Fri	5/15/1857 @ 9 pm via steamer "Golden Age"
Arrive Acapulco	Thur	5/21/1857
Arrive Manzanilla	Fri	5/22/1857 @ 6 pm
Arrive San Francisco	Fri	5/29/1857 @ 3 am
Leave San Francisco	Sat	5/30/1857 @ 4 am
Arrive Stockton	Sat	5/30/1857 @ 12 pm
Leave Stockton	Sun	5/31/1857 @ 5 am
Arrive Sonora	Sun	5/31/1857 @ 6 pm

HIGHLIGHTS FROM DIARY OF S. P. EDES, DOVER, MAINE

Tuesday, May 5, 1857

"The Illinois left her pier at 2 o'clock PM for Aspinwall with, it is stated, 1200 passengers on board. The fare in steerage is various, and the first meal was composed of substances I shall not soon forget. It consisted of "salt Horse", hard-bread and slops misnamed tea, etc."

Friday, May 8, 1857

"The plates are tin; tin dippers to drink from, rusty knives and crooked forks and terribly dirty at that; the hard-bread, salt-horse, pork, etc are made to appear in a common milk pan; the butter and salt in a pint basin; and when you add a large pail, not unlike an ash pail for serving out tea and coffee, you have the service of plate, nearly complete, as appears on the table in the forward cabin, or upper steerage."

Monday, May 11

"We have at the present time a fair view of the island of St. Domingo looming up far off at the left...On account of a contagious disease onboard the 'Illinois' its passengers are deprived of the pleasure which they anticipated in visiting Kingston (Jamaica)."

Tuesday, May 12

"I wish it were in my power to describe the passengers now on board the 'Illinois', particularly those occupying the steerage....Here may be found the dark-eyed Italian, the filthy yet generous-hearted Irishman, the wooden-headed Dutchman, and the cool, calculating Yankee, mingling together and messing at the same table. Here also may be found the volatile Frenchman and the treacherous Spaniard, who ever stands ready to use the stiletto upon the unsuspecting and unwary."

Thursday, May 14

"Arrived at Spinal 12 o'clock today. Here begins the most interesting period of my journey."

Friday, May 15

"This has been, today, a day of wonders and amusement. I am now sitting on a box of provisions (which I have purchased for the remainder of my journey) in the railroad depot at Panama, which is filled with almost every species of the human race. Hundreds of passengers by the New York & New Orleans boats and added to these hundreds of others, natives of the Isthmus, who are engaged in vending caked, fruits and liquors of all kinds and you have a very good representation of Babel on a small scale."

Monday, May 18

"The cabin is so oppressively hot that it is impossible for me to rest there and there seems but one alternative, and that is to steal some ones berth on deck." "Our fare on this side is good and I hear no complaints from the passengers."

Tuesday, May 19

"We are now crossing the Gulf of Tehuantepec and there is much sea-sickness on board in consequence of the heavy swells incident to such places."

Wednesday, May 20

"Much sea-sickness on account of the heavy blow experienced last night."

Thursday, May 21

"This morning I was awakened by discharge of cannon on the steamship...we were just entering the harbor of Acapulco...If the towns or cities of the Pacific coast are all like the ones which have thus far appeared they hardly deserve a passing notice. The scenery is beautiful."

Friday, May 22

"Arrived at Manzanilla at 6 o'clock this morning. The steamer put in here for the purpose of taking in specie for the government, a premium being paid for the same. It was stated that \$2,000,000 was taken on board at this time...We remained in port about 3 hours, but no one was permitted to go on shore. In the meantime we were visited by natives bringing loads of lime apples and oranges, which were greedily purchased, and more greedily devoured by the passengers."

Sunday, May 24

"The weather is so very cool today that many of the passengers have worn their overcoats.....We are now in the Gulf of California and the sea is quite rough."

Monday, May 25

"The weather today is colder than we have experienced since leaving New York....I was much amused a few days since while listening to a fellow who was relieving his imaginary hardships by humming the popular song 'There's No Place Like Home'I heard another one assert that he 'wished the old steamer and all its crew would go to Hell endway's'I'm convinced that this voyage to California will not soon be forgotten by many."

Tuesday, May 26

"I have probably witnessed more drinking of spiritous liquors and have heard more profane swearing since leaving home than I shall again during the same period of time."

Wednesday, May 27

2 ½ o'clock pm

"Great confusion now exists among the crew and passengers of the steamship on account of some defect which has been discovered in the boiler. The firemen are extinguishing the fires as rapidly as possible and the officers are....apparently a good deal excited. The opinion is prevalent among the passengers that we have all been in imminent danger...I now learn that there was too much steam on, and that we were all near being blown into another sphere...It was only this morning that the steamship narrowly escaped a reef of rocks, its bows being headed directly for it."

Thursday, May 28

9 a.m.

"Another tumult has just occurred, caused by the reopening of a cavity in the boiler which yesterday had been temporarily repaired."

12 noon

"We have just hove in sight of the mainland."...Today at 2 o'clock we are 23 days from New York and tonight at 9 o'clock 14 days from Panama."

Friday, May 29

"Arrived at San Francisco at 3 o'clock this morning."

Sunday, May 31

"Left Stockton at 5 am for Sonora and after a hard and dusty ride of 75 miles, the most of it rough and rugged country, we arrived at our place of destination at 6 o'clock pm."

Thursday, June 4

"This forenoon had a little experience at mining. The first operation being bailing water from a pit, clearing sluice boxes, etc. I am satisfied that it is hard labor which I might use myself to by constant practice. The pit...this day paid \$5.60."

Monday, June 15

"Commenced working another pit and find that this kind of mining is anything but easy."

Tuesday, June 16

"Have got a lame back, having taken cold in consequence of having wet feet."

Thursday, June 18

"Have had a little more experience of mining today, and find it rather harder work than sticking type; shall not continue in the business a great length of time."

Friday, June 19

"Who ever heard of mending trousers with a flour sack, yet I am free to acknowledge that I did last night for Dr. Bancroft, and it was as good as the best."

Saturday, June 20

"Charles has just returned from Springfield in company with "Jake" who was riding with another man with the horse taking fright ran down a hill, throwing him through the wall of a building and dangerously injuring him.

The second time I've attempted to make bread was today and was attended with complete success."

Sunday, June 21

"Traveled to Sonora today but found no letter in the Post Office, and was considerably disappointed in consequence. Am waiting with much anxiety to hear from Sacramento.

This evening attended a Methodist meeting, and for the first time witnessed the manner in which they convert people."

Wednesday, June 24

"The quartz vein has yielded some rich specimen today and has raised the value of the "lead" very much in the estimation of the shareholders....Mr. Shaw asks \$1000 for a share."

Friday, June 26

This entire entry describes the hanging of Wm. B. Davis.

Saturday, June 27

"Mr. Shaw disposed of one fifth of his quartz vein to Mr. Street for \$1000....Have a strong notion of going to Sacramento next week for the purpose of seeking employment in a Printing Office."

Friday, July 10

"It is thought that the vein (quartz lead) will not prove as good as was at first anticipated. Charles threatens to dispose of his interest for \$1000 if he can."

Saturday, July 12

"The most prominent thing which has taken place today in our cabin is the serving up of a real California pot-pie; a rich and rare luxury."

Tuesday, July 14

"The ditch for conducting water to the claim of Shaw and Edes proved a total failure; it was impossible to force water up an inclined plane, as it conflicted with the laws of nature."

Monday, July 20

"The amount realized from a large 'pit' worked by Charles, York, and myself was about \$4.00 in three days and an half. These are the disappointments a miner has to contend with."

Saturday, July 25

"But little is doing hereabouts in consequence of the Camp Meeting which is being held near this place."

Monday, July 27

"Last night must have been an exciting one at the camp meeting, judging from the account given by the boys who are in attendance. Some twelve persons were so excited that they came forward at the solicitation of the ministers and confessed their sins... It is a new thing in these parts and is made a subject of ridicule; denominated a theatrical performance and a humbug."

Tuesday, July 28

"The excitements continues at the camp ground. Several converts were secured last night."

Wednesday, July 29

"The boys have wonderful tales to tell concerning the doings at the camp meeting. It is compared to theatre, and is a resort for all the sporting characters in the vicinity."

Friday, July 31

"Have washed the gold taken from two pits which amounts to \$13.00"

" 'If there is a hell, California is built over it; it is an abyss from which issues every kind of sin.' It is an old proverb that 'He who goes to Rome the first time looks out for a knave; the second time he finds him; and the third he brings him away with him.' I sincerely hope that I shall not make the three journeys one in my tour of California for what was anciently said in Rome is equally true of California at the present time."

Tuesday, August 3

"The camp meeting closed it ceremonies today."

Saturday, August 9

"After washing out our slurie boxes and weighing the proceeds of four days labor we found ourselves possessors of \$24.10 which, after deducting \$8.00 for four days water, left \$4.00 apiece."

Tuesday, August 12

"Influenza is prevailing to a great extent."

Thursday, August 14

"I have the influenza badly."

Monday, August 17

"Frost has just left our cabin. He is what is termed a homesick child. He longs to again be a home with his family. His is one of a thousand like cases where the want of funds is the only reason why they do not return to the states."

Saturday, August 23

"I went to Sonora this afternoon for the purpose of attending a Masonic meeting, but was disappointed as none were held."

Tuesday, August 25

"This has been a notable day for the inhabitants of Columbia. At four o'clock a smoke was seen to rise followed by heavy explosion and report says that the whole town, with the exception of a few fire proof buildings, is destroyed and fifteen lives lost."

Wednesday, August 26

"From more particulars of the fire in Columbia, I learn that ...the amount of loss exceeds \$500,000. Six bodies have been taken from the ruins. The fire originated in a China house."

Friday, August 28

"We have 'washed-out' and find that we have 8 ½ ounces which amounts to \$59 or \$1.27 per day to the man."

Tuesday, Sept. 1

"Bought a pair of miners boots for which I paid \$4.25. Went to the quartz vein to see Shaw and found that he was assisting to initiate candidates into the Order of the Sons of Temperance."

Thursday, Sept. 3

"There is every indication that we are in the vicinity of a quartz vein."

Saturday, Sept. 5

"The proceeds of one weeks labor amounts to \$69.00 or about \$14.00 to each person."

"These is any amount of profane swearing and ill-feeling on the claim and loud threats of dissolving are hard."

Sunday, Sept. 6

"Tonight, about dusk, Bill Smith came to our cabin and informed us that Elle, his partner, had shot a 'greaser' at Tuttle town."

Tuesday, Sept. 8

"Trouble is brewing in the garden between the flooming company and half a dozen red-mouthed Irishmen, grieving out of the fact that they (the Irishmen) have jumped a claim from the flooming company."

Wednesday, Sept. 9

"The trouble in the Garden continues. Two of the Irishmen drew pistols today on Gault, but did not fire."

Friday, Sept. 11

"A special meeting of Methodist is held tonight for the purpose of perfecting themselves in the art of praying."

Sunday, Sept. 13

"The cooking in the cabin is done by all hands, each one taking his turn at baking bread and boiling potatoes and onions."

"Jamestown is a mining town of considerable note... There may be found here, as well as in other mining towns, many loafers and drunken people, etc and it presents a lively appearance on Sunday, if at no other time."

Wednesday, Sept. 16

"....little ambition exists among any of us as the claim has not proved as good as was anticipated."

Friday, Sept. 18

"For a few nights past we have been disturbed by the howling of dogs, which has roused the superstitious notions of some of the boys."

Saturday, Sept. 19

"The result of this weeks work amounts to \$33.37 or \$7.00 apiece; water money to be deducted, the smallest amount yet received. It is a matter of doubt whether we continue working this claim any longer."

Monday, Sept. 21

"I went to Sonora today to exchange dust but could get but \$17.50 of Street, and went to Springfield but could here get but \$17.75 per oz."

Wednesday, Sept. 23

"This has been a day of ill luck on the claim. Our time has been mostly spent at fixing sluices after they had fell down. A good deal of bad humor exists, and a dissolution of the company is threatened."

Tuesday, Sept. 29

"An amusing scene occurred here today. Taylors horses became frightened and ran with a wagon making a great many turns 'till at last they cleared it and made for home."

"The Mexicans took from their lead last week 35 lb. of gold. It is a fact that no white man has any luck at mining; it is among Mexicans and "niggers" that we hear of the big strikes."

Thursday, Oct. 1

"Charles has quit work with our company. Four hundred twenty-one ounces was taken from the Mexicans quartz vein this week, the amount of two days grinding in the arastos."

Friday, Oct. 2

"Charles and R. have left the claim forever, it is probable. Harry and myslef have worked alone. Amount taken out this week, \$50.00."

Wednesday, Oct. 7

"Bought a hat for which I paid \$4.50."

Thursday, Oct. 8

"Forty-six pounds of amalgam was taken out of the Chileno vein this afternoon. The result of one days grinding."

Friday, Oct. 9

"Charles recommenced working the claim today."

Saturday, Oct. 10

"Finished our weeks labor today. Amount realized will no more than pay board bill."

Monday, Oct. 12

"Today closed our labor on the gulch claim which we commenced Aug. 6., two months and one week labor. The amount received by each hand was \$108."

Tuesday, Oct. 13

"It is said that another big strike has been made near Tuttletown, by a company of drunken miners, from which they took several hundred dollars to a pan. Bought a pair of thin boots for \$4.50."

Thursday, Oct. 15

"Have visited a rich Quartz vein from which was taken \$100 to a pan of dirt. The dirt is decomposed quartz of a reddish caste and literally 'lousy'."

Friday, Oct. 16

"More big strikes have been made today, near the grave yard at Tuttletown, from which 10 ounces was taken."

Saturday, Oct 17

"From the vein struck yesterday \$500 was taken out today."

Sunday, Oct. 18

"More big strikes in quartz have been made near Tuttletown."

Saturday, Oct. 24

"Bright and early this morning the boys were astir, some packing and others preparing breakfast. The asses were packed, the breakfast ate and the hunters commenced their journey towards the mountains, it being their intention to pack their meats into Sonora."

"\$12,000 was taken from the arastras of the Mexicans this week."

Thursday, Oct. 29

"Harry will work at the mill in the mountains this winter."

Thursday, Nov. 5

"Rain! Rain! Rain! It rained powerfully last night and this forenoon and we were afraid our canvass roof would take a hasty leave but we escaped any disaster."

Saturday, Nov. 7

"Doc is out of employment and discouraged and is on the point of leaving this region."

Thursday, Nov. 10

"Last night, about 10 o'clock, the hunters arrived, having been absent two weeks and two days. They succeeded in killing one deer only."

Saturday, Nov. 14

"Washed out our sluices and, by competent judges, it was thought that we had 50 cents. I am anxiously awaiting a letter from Sacramento, as my movements depend upon the information received from that place."

DIARY OF S. P. EDES, DOVER, MAINE 1857

Left Foxcroft April 29, 1857 and arrived in Bangor same day at 7 o'clock P.M.

Left Bangor on Thursday 30th, at 11 o'clock, A.M., and arrived in Boston on Friday morning at 7 o'clock. Had a very pleasant "time" during my short stay; Chas. Holmes volunteering his services in escorting one through the city. Left Boston on Friday May 1, at 5 ½ o'clock, and arrived at Fall River at 7 ½, and took the Steamer "Empire State" for New York and arrived Saturday morning. Breakfasted at the "Lovejoy Hotel, and then proceeded to find Mrs. L.F. Dinsmore, which being done, we repaired to the Ticket Office on West Street. Owing to there being no other line of Steamers for California, the fare is very high. The lower steerage tickets are \$135; the upper steerage \$150, the 2d cabin \$200, and the 1st cabin \$300. Money being an indispensable thing with me, in order to purchase a 2d cabin ticket, and not at this time being blessed with an over-abundance, I was compelled to take the upper steerage, paying \$150.

Sunday, May 3

Have passed this day or the most of it, at my Hotel. The reason for doing so, in part, may be attributed to the fact that I could not attend meeting unless I traveled a long distance; for be it known that none but the most wealthy can attend many of the meetings held in this city. Sen. Miller made an effort to get into one of the churches here, but failed. I could not find out by him the answer he received, but am sure it was not a smooth one, as he had a hang-dog look when questioned about the matter. If religion is reckoned by the dollars and cents a man may have, I want nothing to do with it; and I was heartily glad that I was not caught in such company.

Tuesday, May 5, 1857

The Illinois left her pier at 2 o'clock PM for Aspinwall with, it is stated, 1200 passengers on board. The fare in steerage is various, and the first meal was composed of substances I shall not soon forget. It consisted of "salt horse", hard-bread and slops misnamed tea, etc. There is a detachment of U.S. Marines on board, destined for the ship-of-war Decatur at Panama. The poor fellows will know the risk incurred by their superiors in sending them to that climate, for I heard one of them state that but few if any of them would ever again stand on these decks as a three-years cruise near Panama would certainly result in death to many if not all of them. I have been quite sea sick today, but no good has thus far resulted from it as I have vomited but once.

The Steerage is not so bad, thus far, as I anticipated, but the Lord knows as well as myself, that the diet is poor enough for any man; but I am told by my berth companion (who by the way is a fine fellow, and a whole sailor) that the fare is good compared with what he had been obliged to submit upon. I do not trouble myself in this respect, as I have laid in a good share of soda crackers, dried beef, cheese, and 6 quarts of ale to drink on the Isthmus.

Wednesday, May 6

This day has passed away with nothing of interest recurring. I was mighty sick this morning, but could not "make a raise". I now feel somewhat better but am not yet all right.

Thursday, May 7

This day has passed with but little variation from the previous ones. The fare on the table has been the same as heretofore--dinner a substance called rice tea, potatoes and meat.

Friday, May 8, 1857

12 o'clock pm. Distance our last 24 hours 234 miles, distance from New York 629 miles.

I have not yet described the table dishes with which the steerage is supplied, but will make an effort to do so. The plates are tin; tin dippers to drink from, rusty knives and crooked forks and terribly dirty at that; the hard-bread, salt-horse, pork, etc are made to appear in a common milk pan; the butter and salt in a pint basin; and when you add a large pail, not unlike an ash pail for serving out tea and coffee, you have the service of plate, nearly complete, as appears on the table in the forward cabin, or upper steerage. I may as well add here, that we have free access to any quantity of salt water for washing.

Saturday, May 9

Distance our last 24 hours, 249 miles: distance from New York 878 miles.

In yesterday's memorandum I endeavored to sketch, as nearly as possible the plate served to steerage passengers on board the 'Illinois'. I find that there is something in the old adage that there is nothing like getting used to a thing for I have regularly visited the table for the purpose of "picking" off some of the best the waiters placed before us, and of late have often actually made a hearty meal, although the soup had more colors than a rainbow, and the potatoes were not half cooked. I really wish some of my friends in Maine could but drop in upon us where we are living, and I will venture to predict that they would make a discovery they never dreamed of and in the meantime find relief to their pent-up mirthfulness by a hearty laugh. I however have done well thus far, and only hope that I shall fare no worse. My sleeping apartment is very good, there being a port-hole to admit fresh air when needed near my head.

Sunday, May 10

Distance our last 24 hours 250 miles, distance from New York 1128 miles.

If nothing unusual happens, we shall enter the port of Kingston, Jamaica tomorrow, where the steamer will take in some 800 tons of coal, and where if possible I shall purchase a few of those delicacies which cannot be obtained by one on ship-board. To-day we were in sight of "Crooked Island", so called, which I learn is inhabited by a mixed population of Spaniards, negroes, etc., wreckers by reputation. This is the only land we have sighted since leaving New York, and it was truly refreshing to look upon terra firma, if we could not walk among its orange groves. It may be well to mention the fact

here before I forget, that I ate the last of the Election cake which mother made before I left home to-day, more than 1500 miles from Foxcroft.

Monday, May 11

8 o'clock A.M.

We have at the present time a fair view of the island of St. Domingo looming up far off at the left like a dark cloud rising from the depths of the ocean. Distance our last 24 hours 255; distance from New York 1383 miles. On account of a contagious disease on board the 'Illinois' its passengers are deprived of the pleasure which they anticipated in visiting Kingston (Jamaica) as its officer has decided not to touch at that port. It is a sore disappointment to me as well as hundreds of others who anticipated a "good time" on landing. I shall fail of replenishing my stock of provisions till we arrive at Aspinwall, which will be in two or three days.

Tuesday, May 12

Distance our last 24 hours 265; distance from New York 1648 miles.

I wish it were in my power to describe the passengers now on board the 'Illinois', particularly those occupying the steerage. They are the representatives of nearly every nation on the globe, and as such it will create but little wonder, perhaps should I state that some strange things daily occur in our midst. Here may be found the dark-eyed Italian, the filthy yet generous-hearted Irishman, the wooden-headed Dutchman, and the cool, calculating Yankee, mingling together and messing at the same table. Here also may be found the volatile Frenchman and the treacherous Spaniard, who ever stands ready to use the stiletto upon the unsuspecting and unwary. You will also find those who apparently have moved in all grades of society; those who would adorn the drawing room and those who, no doubt, have done some service as street scavengers. It is stated that there are 500 steerage passengers, and among them some 75 ladies (?) and need I say that the occupation of these 500 passengers are as various as the countries they represent. The decks now, as I write, are crowded, some engaged in reading, some in talking, others in playing and all to a certain extent in that which is best suited to their taste.

The oppressively hot weather we have been subject to for a few days past, has afforded sufficient reason for occupying the decks.

Wednesday, May 13

We are now in the Caribbean Sea, and the passengers are anxious to arrive at Aspinwall, which they are expecting to do sometime tonight. Nothing worthy of remark has occurred up to the present time, 12 o'clock, am. Lat. 10 deg. 40 min. north. Lon. 69° 14" west. Distance our last 24 hours 254 miles, distance from New York 1902 miles.

Thursday, May 14

Arrived at Aspinwall at 12 o'clock today. Here begins the most interesting period of my journey.

Friday, May 15

Left Aspinwall at 8 ½ o'clock A.M. and arrived at Panama at 1 P.M.

This has been, truly, a day of wonders and amusement. I am now sitting on a box of provisions (which I have purchased for the remainder of my journey) in the railroad depot at Panama, which is filled with almost every species of the human race. Hundreds of passengers by the New York & New Orleans boats are here, and added to these hundreds of others, natives of the Isthmus, who are engaged in vending cakes, fruits and liquors of all kinds and you have a very good representation of Babel on a small scale. Left Panama at 3 o'clock this day in a launch for the Steamer "Golden Age" which was lying about three miles distant from the town. Sailed at 9 o'clock.

Saturday, May 16

We are now steaming along at the rate of about 11 miles per hour.

Sunday, May 17

Heaven has me preaching in the forward part of the ship to-day.

Monday, May 18

Undertook last night, to sleep on deck, but found before morning that oak plank were much harder than my body, and this morning feel much older than I really am. The cabin is so oppressively hot that it is impossible for me to rest there, and there seems but one alternative, and that is to steal some one's berth on deck. I may say that I should be justified in doing this by stating that self preservation is the first law of nature and as no one can live without sleep, it is evident that I should be justified in the act of "hooking" a berth.

Our fare on this side is good and I hear no complaint from the passengers; and if there are complaints, they are certainly without cause.

Among the passengers on the "Golden Age" is a filibuster from Walker's army, who had succeeded in leaving him without getting his discharge, or, in other words he deserted, being under sentence of death.

Tuesday, May 19

We are now crossing the Gulf of Tehuantepec and there is much sea sickness on board in consequence of the heavy swells incident to such places. Distance our last 24 hours, 286 miles.

Wednesday, May 20

Much sea sickness on account of the heavy blow experienced last night.

Thursday, May 21.

This morning I was awakened by discharge of cannon on the steamship and on going on deck found we were just entering the harbor of Acapulco and had a fair view of the town, its fortifications, and surrounding scenery. If the towns or cities of the Pacific coast are all like the ones which have thus far appeared they hardly deserve a passing notice. The scenery is beautiful.

Friday, May 22

Arrived at Manzanilla at 6 o'clock this evening. The steamer put in here for the purpose of taking in specie for the government, a premium being paid for the same. It was stated that \$2,000,000 was taken on board at this time. Some novel expressions were uttered by the passengers at the time the money was being received, all evidently being anxious to possess a portion and consequently relieved of the trouble of seeking a pile in California. Manzanilla (what was visible in the dim distance) is composed of huts, not unlike those at Acapulco and other Mexican towns bordering on the Pacific. We remained in port about 3 hours, but no one was permitted to go on shore. In the meantime we were visited by natives bringing loads of fine apples and oranges, which were greedily purchased, and more greedily devoured by the passengers. The next port made will be San Francisco, which we hope to reach in about 6 days.

Saturday, May 23

Distance from Manzanilla today at 12 o'clock 164 miles.

Sunday, May 24

The weather is so very cool today that many of the passengers have worn their overcoats" and are dodging into every warm corner they can find. We are now in the Gulf of California and the sea is quite rough. But there is no sea sickness.

Miller has just been grumbling about the fare and says he means to write to his friends not to go in the steerage unless they wish to die! Poor fellow, he evidently takes the matter at heart, and I am inclined to think he had rather be at home; in fact I heard him express this desire when but a few days from New York. He is one of many I have met with who is disheartened unless it is all smooth sailing.

The fare, I will here state again, is very good-much better than a large majority of the passengers expected, and with but two or three exceptions I have heard a satisfactory expression from them. Distance over the last 24 hours 254 miles. Lat. 22 degree 48' North, Lon. 110 degree 0> West.

Monday, May 25

The weather today is colder than we have experienced since leaving New York and majority of the passengers are below. We are all anxiously looking for the day which will terminate our journey, and many are anticipating better fare when they arrive at San Francisco, which no doubt they will receive by paying well for it. I was much amused a few days since while listening to a fellow who was relieving his imaginary hardships by humming the popular song 'There's No Place Like Home'. That fellow, surely, was

thinking of his mother's cupboard, and the quiet sleep he has enjoyed in times past. I heard another one assert that he wished the old steamer and all its crew would go to Hell endways. But all this canting amounts to but little because nothing either good or bad results from it; but I'm convinced that this voyage to California will not soon be forgotten by many. Distance over last 24 hours 266 miles. Lat. 25 degrees 31' N, Lon. 113 degrees 43 W.

Tuesday, May 26

Distance our last 24 hours, 269 miles.

I have probably witnessed more drinking of spiritous liquors and have heard more profane swearing since leaving home than I shall again during the same period of time. It is "passing strange" that a man cannot express his thoughts without uttering an oath that would shock the sensibilities of a novice; and it is equally strange that they cannot live without, from day to day indulging their appetite in a habit which alike is sure to result in injury to themselves and the society of which they are members—that of liquor drinking.

Wednesday, May 27

2 ½ o'clock P.M. Distance over the last 24 hours 287 miles

Great confusion now exists among the crew and passengers of the steamship on account of some defect which has been discovered in the boiler. The firemen are extinguishing the fires as rapidly as possible and the officers are hurrying to and fro, delivering orders, and are apparently a good deal excited. The opinion is prevalent among the passengers that we have all been in imminent danger. The excitement has now nearly subsided and the firemen are heating one of the furnaces, but I have not yet learned the precise cause of the excitement and noise and confusion which has existed for the last half hour. I now learn that there was too much steam on, and that we were all near being blown into another sphere. If we all arrive safely in San Francisco, I shall deem this a fortunate trip indeed. It was only this morning that the steamship narrowly escaped a reef of rocks, its bows being headed directly for it; and it was discovered only in season to change the course and thus avert the destruction of both vessel and passengers, which would certainly have occurred.

That men are composed of different elements was very distinctly manifested during the excitement today. While some were pulling off their boots and bringing their worldly goods on deck and preparing for a cold bath, another was playing a violin, and was apparently enjoying the scenes which surrounded him. He was a Mexican, and I stood beside him at the mess table, and got his views of the present and future; the substance of which was, that every one's days are numbered, and when their time comes to die; it is useless to try to dodge the shaft—which I deemed very good logic, and of course assented to it.

Thursday, May 28

9 a.m.

Another tumult has just occurred, caused by the reopening of a cavity in the boiler which yesterday had been temporarily repaired.

12 noon

We have just hove in sight of the mainland and hope to arrive in San Francisco tomorrow morning if no accident occurs to prevent. We should have arrived tonight had not one of the boilers failed. I am sure not one of the passengers will regret leaving the boat on it arrival in port. Today at 2 o'clock we are 23 days from New York and tonight at 9 o'clock 14 days from Panama.

Friday, May 29

Arrived at San Francisco a 3 o'clock this morning.

Saturday, May 30

Left San Francisco at 4 o'clock today and arrived at Stockton at 12 pm. Left Stockton at 5 o'clock May 31.

Sunday, May 31

Left Stockton at 5 am for Sonora and after a hard and dusty ride of 75 miles, the most of it rough and rugged country, we arrived at our place of destination at 6 o'clock pm." At this late hour I deemed it unwise to attempt to find Charles who was working on Mormon Creek and therefore lodged at the U. T. Hotel. In the meantime I took a birds-eye view of the town of Sonora, and by the kindness of Mr. Shaw, a 'down east' man whose acquaintance I made, got a small view of the morals of California.

Monday, June 1

Left my hotel for the purpose of finding Charles and after wandering about nearly half a day, I blundered onto him while working on the Creek. He has been doing but little, as I was fearful, but his prospect is good.

Tuesday, June 2

Have spent most of this day exploring the mining regions near Jameson's Ranch and have been exceedingly pleased with the appearance of the country, the miners and their primitive manner of living.

Wednesday, June 3

Attended a Methodist prayer meeting this evening, which does not differ from meetings of like denomination which I have attended in the States.

Thursday, June 4

This forenoon had a little experience at mining. The first operation being bailing water from a pit, clearing sluice boxes, etc. I am satisfied that it is hard labor which I might use myself to by constant practice. The pit which Charles worked this day paid \$5.60.

Friday, June 5

If but half the incidents of California life which have come under my observation could be written out, they would fill a volume of realities as marvelous as I Quinotism, and far more amusing. I just witnessed a moment which was novel in itself to me, yet a common occurrence here. A Mexican with his wife came to the Creek for the purpose of crossing, but owing to the rush of water, the woman was unable to ford the stream, and now was

displayed that genuine courtesy which the weaker sex in every country demand and receive from their lord and master. How to manage the thing? Why he, in school-boy fashion, stoops and she apparently with the most loving kindness clings closer to his back than I should want a sister, and thus they crossed.

Saturday, June 6

Have just returned from a jaunt to the Mexican quartz vein (so called) it being the richest in the Southern mines. A day or two before I arrived at this place a boulder was taken from this vein, literally covered with gold, which could not be raised by two men; estimated to be worth \$3000. It is strikes like this which create so much excitement in the States, and it is strikes like this which start so many to this region, not reflecting that these are of few occurrence among the thousands of miners.

Sunday, June 7

A meeting of the Methodist Church is held in Jamison's Salad House in this place. There are about 20 members, and still increasing. There is considerable excitement on the subject of religion, and quite a number of professions. The meetings are conducted similar to or precisely as the meetings of the Methodist persuasion are conducted in the States. The excitement has resulted in some benefit to at least two persons in this community, who were previously 'hard nuts.

'Down East Tunnel' which visited yesterday, extends into Table Mountain nearly 400 feet and is one of the wonders which may be seen in California. There are in operation 12 tunnels within to miles of this cabin not more than 3 of which pays the expenses of the labor done on them. Table Mountain of itself is a great curiosity when viewed externally, but a still greater curiosity is brought to view by the ever restless searcher for the hidden ore, who has penetrated to its very center, having hope for their watchword, and a deep purse as a pre-requisite. As the workmen advance they produce undisputable evidence that once there flowed to the ocean, (a common center) a river as majestic as the San Joaquin or Sacramento. Petrified trees, stones which must have been washed and polished in ages past, and which are constantly being brought to light, and other evidences, unmistakably prove the assertion made.

Monday, June 8

I have just heard of another 'big strike' near this place, where a 'chispas' [Spanish word defined as spark emitted from an igneous body; a flake of fire; a very small diamond: most likely reference to a large nugget] was taken from a gulch, which weighed twenty pounds, and valued at \$10,000. This is still another streak of good luck, for it is a notable fact that the ground had been worked in nearly every place around, and this was found accidentally by means of water having washed the dirt and left the gold on the ledge. C. Shaw & Co. commenced the operation of erecting machinery for grinding quartz on their claim.

Tuesday, June 9

The occupants of this cabin are Dr. Bancroft, Charles Shaw, Charles E. Edes, and (for a time) E.P. Edes. The cabin is situated within a stone's throw of Mormon Creek, about four miles from Sonora, and about one mile from Tuttletown, it being on the road to that

place. A description of this cabin may not be out of place at this time. I will therefore view the pile and note down as I observe. It is about 14 feet by 10, and to the eaves nearly or quite five feet, its several sides being constructed of boards and its roof of canvas. Its floor is rough boards, and the chimney, if chimney it may be called, compares well with the old Puritanic style we read of when wood was plenty and improvements made. It is built out of doors, of course, of stones, and towers up some eight feet, appearing very like some old ruin dusted o'er with age. Crude as this place of abode may seem, from the description I have given, it is a palace in comparison with hundreds in this country which have come under my observation while passing from Stockton to this place. The household furniture, etc, are all that is required at the present time.

Wednesday, June 10

Traveled to Sonora today and procured a letter from L. P. Davis of Sacramento, who has offered to procure a situation in an office in that city.

Thursday, June 11

This is the first day I have had any practical experience worthy of mention, in mining, and have learnt how thousands earn their living in the mines, for many of them, nay, hundreds of them do but earn a livelihood.

Friday, June 12

Continue working a 'pit' which Charles commenced a day or two since, and which prospects well. It is hope which sustains the miners of California, and although he may never 'strike it' he is buoyed up from day to day by this nothing balm inherent in the breast of every one. I heard a person (Dr. Bancroft) say a few days since that five hundred miners could be found within six miles of this place, who, under oath would say that for the last year they had not earned more than enough to board and clothe themselves and they, too, hard working men. This is one phase of California life and may be taken as a fair representation through the mining regions in the state.

Saturday, June 13

Having finished a pit, and cleaned up the gold, It was proved that we had dug out a little more than \$19.50.

Sunday, June 14

Traveled to Sonora today, a distance of 3 miles over mountains, to the Post Office, but found no letter from Sacramento but was not much disappointed.

Monday, June 15

Commenced working another pit and find that this kind of mining is anything but easy

Tuesday, June 16

Finished the pit we commenced yesterday, but have not cleaned up yet.
Have got a lame back, having taken cold in consequence of having wet feet. Don't know how long it may last.

These Irish boys struck a rich lead today.

Wednesday, June 17

Have confined myself for the most of today to the cabin in consequence of a lame back.
Have spent most of my time in writing home.

Thursday, June 18

Warm weather continues without much variation. The climate is fine, and cannot be otherwise than healthy.
Have had a little more experience of mining today, and find it rather harder work than sticking type; shall not continue in the business a great length of time.

Friday, June 19

Who ever heard of mending trousers with a flour sack, yet I am free to acknowledge that I did last night for Dr. Bancroft, and it was as good as the best.

Saturday, June 20

Charles went to Springfield on Preskit's horse. They have closed up their week's work on the arastas at the quartz claim, but have not yet washed the gold. A man acquainted with quartz mining visited this claim today and says it is the richest in the Southern mines.
Charles has just returned from Springfield in company with "Jake" who was riding with another man with the horse taking freight, ran down a hill, throwing him through the wall of a building and dangerously injuring him.

The second time I've attempted to make bread was today and was attended with complete success.

Sunday, June 21

Traveled to Sonora today but found no letter in the Post Office, and was considerably disappointed in consequence. Am waiting with much anxiety to hear from Sacramento. Find it very hard work to 'loaf' and much rather be doing something else.

Mr. Shaw and myself are the only ones at home, the other boys being away 'on business'.

This evening attended a Methodist meeting, and for the first time witnessed the manner in which they convert people. Consider it mostly excitement of the 'tallest' kind, yet may be mistaken.

Monday, June 22

Have been at the quartz 'lead' most of the day and have done some responsible work in the way of picking and shoveling. Jacob Doll is much worse today and there is but little hope of his recovery.

Mr. Shaw and Jamison went to "Angels Camp" for the purpose of examining the arastras of that place.

Tuesday, June 23

Reconstructed the arastras, I assisting Jamison in the operation.

Wednesday, June 24

The quartz vein has yielded some rich specimen today and has raised the value of the "lead" very much in the estimation of the shareholders. The specimens taken out are 'lousy' and create no little excitement among the miners who were working it. Mr. Shaw asks \$1000 for a share.

Thursday, June 25

Have worked a portion of today at the quartz claim, assisting Mr. Shaw at 'cradling' the ore taken from the arastras. The amount taken out will not exceed two ounces; a slim week's work. The arastras work badly, consequently but little can be done with them. The owners intend to purchase machinery and other 'fixins', soon, when some responsible work may be done.

Friday, June 26

Today being assigned as the day on which Wm. B. Davis was to be hanged. I with hundreds of others around, crowded into Sonora to witness the scene. He was to suffer the severest penalty which the law could inflict for murdering a Chinaman for the paltry sum of fourteen dollars. But little excitement was manifested, as he was to have been executed on the first day of May, but his sentence was commuted to the 26th, which served to diminish the interest. Three military companies were on the ground prepared to act should occasion require. The prisoner was a fine looking fellow, and many a one was heard to sympathize this untimely end. At about 11 o'clock the prisoner was taken from his cell and placed in a carriage guarded by soldiers and surrounded by a multitude of people, and, with a tap of the drum, the crowd moved to the gallows, erected a short distance from the town. On arriving at the place the prisoner alighted and was conducted under the gallows where he has took a small quantity of liquor after which he was led up a flight of stairs and placed on the drop. The sheriff then proceeded to read the warrant, after which a prayer was offered up in behalf of the culprit. Having taken a last farewell of a few friends, his arms and legs were pinioned, the rope put around his neck, and a black cap drawn over his head. During the whole of this time the prisoner maintained the most careless indifference and conversed and smiled as cheerfully as though he enjoyed the greatest amount of freedom. At a signal from the sheriff, a lively air was struck by the band, and almost simultaneously the drop was sprung and poor Davis was launched into eternity. No struggle was made after he fell, but all was motionless and still. Having suspended about half an hour, he was cut down and placed in a coffin

immediately under him, and conveyed a short distance and buried. It is stated that he is from Ohio, where he has parents residing.

Saturday, June 27

Worked at the quartz vein this forenoon, throwing out of the pit large and small stone. This afternoon have done but little else but 'loaf' about the cabin. Mr. Shaw disposed of one fifth of his quartz vein to Mr. Street for \$1000. Have a strong notion of going to Sacramento next week for the purpose of seeking employment in a Printing Office.

Sunday, June 28

Have spent a large portion of today reading the "History of the Reformation". Went to the Methodist meeting at night, and was tortured for about an hour, pretty severely. Mr. Shaw is very anxious to have Charles attend meeting and offers to loan him \$50 to purchase clothing.

Monday, June 29

Am engaged to work at the quartz vein this week at \$2.50 per day which is better than loafing. The work is not hard.

Tuesday, June 30

There has been considerable trouble at working the 'arastas' which has caused considerable ill feeling. The first rain I have seen since I arrived in California fell today.

Wednesday, July 1

It continues raining powerfully and is very cold for this country and season. An old '49 miner says he never experienced so cold weather since he left the states. Charles quite sick today.

Thursday, July 2

Nothing note-worthy around today. Charles and Mr. Moil have worked in the quartz vein; I have tended the arastras.

Friday, July 3

Charles is very uneasy at being obliged to work in the quartz lead and will, perhaps, dispose of his share at a fair price, if he can. He can get \$1000 and I have encouraged him to sell. It has thus far been a losing business.

Saturday, July 4

As this is the birthday of our national independence, I resolved to go to Sonora, where the day was to be celebrated in an appropriate manner. Before sunrise, we were awakened by the discharge of cannon at Sonora and Columbia. Great preparations were made at Columbia to celebrate the day which created a little rivalry on the part of many of the citizens of Sonora, and considerable effort was made to draw a portion of the crowd to that place, but it proved a failure, as there appeared but three engine companies, a company of miners and the "Order of United Americans", preceded by the Sonora Brass

Band. But few people were in town, and a majority of these were in the gambling halls and grog shops with which Sonora abounds. Orations were delivered and the performances closed with fire-works in the evening.

At Columbia it is said better order of things prevailed, and the day passed away to the entire satisfaction of all. The usual amount of drunkenness was observed in this place.

Sunday, July 5

Monday, July 6

Tuesday, July 7

Wednesday, July 8

Thursday, July 9

Have assisted today in setting sluice boxes, preparatory to working a pit on the Creek.

Friday, July 10

Worked at the quartz lead today with Moil. Shaw being at Sonora, a juror. It is thought that the vein will not prove as good as was at first anticipated. Charles threatens to dispose of his interest for \$1000 if he can.

Saturday, July 11

Worked half of this day with Moil. The trial of Lyons and Poor for murder, terminated today, and resulted in their conviction. Gen. Shaw came home about midnight. Have made some preparation for an extra dish tomorrow.

Sunday, July 12

The most prominent thing which has taken place today in our cabin is the serving up of a real California pot pie; a rich and rare luxury. Patterson and Smith dined here today and complimented Dr. Bancroft highly, as cook.

Monday, July 13

Continued working at the quartz vein. Hear that the reservoir of the old water company was carried away last Saturday, near Columbia, drowning several men, and doing an immense amount of damage.

Tuesday, July 14

The ditch for conducting water to the claim of Shaw and Edes proved a total failure; it was impossible to force water up an inclined plane, as it conflicted with the laws of nature. Tomorrow we shall make another effort with prospect of better success, by cutting a new ditch.

Wednesday, July 15

Worked today with Charles, re-cutting a ditch, and succeeded in forcing water through. We are now prepared to ground sluice tomorrow.

Thursday, July 16

The ditch we cut yesterday works admirably, and Mr. York, Charles, and myself have done some ground sluicing. Have written home tonight.

Friday, July 17

Continued to work ground sluicing and finished the pit ready to work.

Saturday, July 18

The principal topic of conversation in our cabin is 'matrimony'. One party contends that 'the widow' is fully justified in marrying J. and quotes scripture to prove it, where it is asserted that 'it is better to marry than to burn', while another party asserts that no one who has a partner living should marry unless lawfully divorced. Doc. is recounting the bad luck he has had in the country.

Sunday, July 19

Spent the day in the cabin reading, etc.

Monday, July 20

Commenced working a 'hit' after washing out, and found the water suddenly failing and upon investigation found that Gale has shut it off, thinking, no doubt, that he could get more pay, but he reckoned without his host, for we concluded not to use it again.

The amount realized from a large 'pit' worked by Charles, York, and myself was about \$4.00 in three days and a half. These are the disappointments a miner has to contend with.

Tuesday, July 21

Today, Chas. And myself began to ground-sluice and make ready to work a pit on the Creek. The folks around here are busy preparing for a camp, meeting which commences next Friday evening. It will be held near Tuttletown at the School House. The Frenchmen are making a great fuss because we have destroyed a portion of their ditch.

Wednesday, July 22

The party most interested has nearly finished the arbor for the accommodation of people attending camp meeting.

Thursday, July 23

Have worked nearly a whole pit today. Hear more rumpus from the Frenchmen about water. The conversation this evening, principally is about women and c.(sic)

Friday, July 24

Now that Charles has gone over to see Harry Prince and Shaw has gone to the Camp Meeting, I will note down one or two things. The proceeds of two day's labor at mining is \$9.00 or \$2.50 per day. Have just finished a letter to James E. Blethen inquiring where Jonas is. The Camp Meeting commences tonight.

Saturday, July 25

But little is doing hereabouts in consequence of the Camp Meeting which is being held near this place. The only labor I have done today is to ground sluice a bit preparatory to working it on Monday.

Sunday, July 26

Today is the great day of the camp meeting. Hundreds of people have passed our cabin, some on horses, some in carriages and other on foot, all bound for the camp grounds. Great exertion is being made to create an excitement and consequently a conversion, but thus far their efforts have proved futile. There is, however, a good deal of excitement existing among the outsiders. It is estimated that thousands people are on the ground.

Monday, July 27

Last night must have been an exciting one at the camp meeting, judging from the account given by the boys who are in attendance. Some twelve persons were so excited that they came forward at the solicitation of the ministers and confessed their sins and will, it is natural to suppose, become members of a church. This camp meeting has 'opened the door' for the commission of great sins among the outsiders. It is a new thing in these parts and is made a subject of ridicule; denominated a theatrical performance and a humbug. Charles and myself have finished on pit today.

Tuesday, July 28

The excitements continues at the camp ground. Several converts were secured last night. A man who robbed the house of Foot & Co. a few days since was captured last night on the camp ground and taken to Jamestown. The result of the examination has not yet transpired.

Wednesday, July 29

The robber captured on Monday last, after an examination, was sentenced to four month's imprisonment in the County Jail.

The boys have wonderful tales to tell concerning the doings at the camp meeting. It is compared to theatre, and is a resort for all the sporting characters in the vicinity. Several were on the anxious seat last night.

Thursday, July 30

Wrote a letter to Charles Brick on Tuesday evening.

Friday, July 31

Have washed the gold taken from two pits which amounts to \$13.00.

'If there is a hell, California is built over it; it is an abyss from which issues every kind of sin.' It is an old proverb that 'He who goes to Rome the first time looks out for a knave; the second time he finds him; and the third he brings him away with him.' I sincerely hope that I shall not make the three journeys in one in my tour of California for what was anciently said in Rome is equally true of California at the present time.

Friday, Aug. 1

Saturday, Aug. 2

Sunday, August 3

The camp meeting closed it ceremonies today.

Monday, Aug. 4

L.Pierce, Romandal, Charles, and myself have concluded to work a gulch near out cabin, and have brought the sluice boxes on the ground.

Tuesday, Aug. 5

Have done nothing but putter about preparing for work tomorrow.

Wednesday, Aug. 6

Commenced working the gulch previously mentioned.

Thursday, Aug 7

Friday, Aug. 8

Saturday, August 9

After washing out our sluice boxes and weighing the proceeds of four days labor we found ourselves possessors of \$24.10 which, after deducting \$8.00 for four days water, left \$4.00 apiece.

Sunday, Aug. 10

The only excuse I can offer for not attending meeting today, is want of suitable summer clothing.

Monday, Aug. 11

Resumed our labor today with a fair prospect of doing pretty well

Tuesday, August 12

Influenza is prevailing to a great extent.

Wednesday, July 13

Several have died in Columbia and Springfield of influenza.

Thursday, August 14

I have the influenza badly.

Friday, Aug. 15

Again cleaned out our sluice boxes, and realized \$50.00 after deducting \$12.00 for water.

Saturday, Aug. 16

The greater part of today has been occupied in repairing and setting boxes. Harry and myself traveled to Mormon Gulch, and examined the old ground from which he had taken a "pile". We also passed the ground worked by Charles Holmes.

Sunday, Aug. 17

Frost has just left our cabin. He is what is termed a homesick child. He longs to again be at home with his family. He is one of a thousand like cases where the want of friends is the only reason why they do not return to the States.

Monday, August 17

H. P. and myself are the only ones working the claim today, but a tail-race: the hardest work we have done this summer. Charles has gone to Sonora. R. Pierce has gone home. Received a letter from home.

Tuesday, Aug. 18

Dr. B has disposed of his interest in the flume for \$500.

Wednesday, Aug. 19

For the first time since we commenced working the gulch, we set the sluices further into the field, after washing out the boxes. The amalgam amounted to \$9.63.

Thursday, Aug. 20

Again resumed our labor in the gulch, and find it more shallow than that previously worked.

Friday, Aug. 21

Romandal Pierce has worked but one day this week. His saw mill has been attacked and he is anxious concerning the same.

Saturday, Aug. 22

We have worked but half of today. "I went to Sonora this afternoon for the purpose of attending a Masonic meeting, but was disappointed as none were held."

Sunday, Aug. 23

Have remained at the cabin today and answered the letter from home.

Monday, Aug. 24

Harry has not worked in the claim today, being indisposed.

Tuesday, August 25

This has been a notable day for the inhabitants of Columbia. At four o'clock a smoke was seen to rise followed by heavy explosion and report says that the whole town, with the exception of a few fire proof buildings, is destroyed and fifteen lives lost.

Wednesday, August 26

From more particulars of the fire in Columbia, I learn that the principal portion of the town was destroyed, and that the amount of loss exceeds \$500,000. Six bodies have been taken from the ruins. The fire originated in a China house.

Thursday, August 27

The only question discussed today, at the claim, of interest is whether the ground we are working will pay. We shall not know till tomorrow, when we intend to wash out and re-set the sluice.

Friday, August 28

We have 'washed-out' and find that we have 8 ½ ounces which amounts to \$59 or \$1.27 per day to the man. The sluices were set this afternoon, and we shall commence washing again tomorrow.

Saturday, August 29

Once more we have commenced throwing in the dirt, hoping for the best. Charles went to Sonora this afternoon in company with Frost to exchange the dust. R., L., and myself have worked.

Sunday, Aug. 30

Went to Shaws' Flat in company with Frost, the principal reason being to carry four letters to the Post Office. They are directed to G. F. E., B. E. Lasgent, C. R. Randall, and Miss L. E. D. Shaw's Flat, or the town, is located nearly level with Table Mountain and has been the richest camp or one of the richest in the Southern mines. Caldwell's diggings, which we visited, are among the richest thereabouts. A shaft is sunk in Table Mountain, and the dirt drifted out, each miner being entitled to 100 feet. There are several other shafts in that vicinity, but none of them pay as well as Caldwell's.

Monday, Aug. 31

Resumed our labor hoping to realize something more profitable than heretofore.

Tuesday, Sept. 1

Bought a pair of miners boots for which I paid Suaces & Steve \$4.25. Went to the quartz vein to see Shaw and found that he was assisting to initiate candidates into the Order of the Sons of Temperance, the first meeting being held tonight at the School House. Some progress is being made at the Quartz vein, by way of getting out ore, etc. Shaw is sanguine of success.

Wednesday, Sept. 2

The annual election of State, County, and Town officers takes place today. The candidates are Edward Stanley for Governor and D. W. Cheesman on the "People's Independent Ticket", J. B. Weller and Joseph Walkeep on the regular Democratic ticket, and G. W. Bowie and J. A. Raymond on the "American State Ticket". Considerable excitement exists in this vicinity, and the ultra Southern Democrats are at loss to find epithets for the "black Republicans", as they are pleased to denominate them. Charles and Harry have gone to Sonora. I have been over to see Shaw but cannot borrow any money of him.

Thursday, Sept. 3

On the claim today, we have worked the length of the 'boxes' and moved half a dozen to the left, for the purpose of working a narrow cut. There is every indication that we are in the vicinity of a quartz vein as a piece of quartz having gold in it, was found in the sluice boxes today. Received letters from home today.

Friday, Sept. 4

Have finished working as far as the boxes extend, and shall "run down" and "pan out" tomorrow.

Saturday, Sept. 5

The proceeds of one weeks labor amounts to \$69.00 or about \$14.00 to each person." R. Prince has left the claim and returned to his home. Charles went to Sonora to get "dust" changed. Harry & myself have been repairing and setting boxes, preparatory to working on Monday. "These is any amount of profane swearing and ill-feeling on the claim and loud threats of dissolving are hard.

Sunday, Sept. 6

Nearly all of today has been spent in and near the cabin. Tonight, about dusk, Bill Smith came to our cabin and informed us that Ellie, his partner, had shot a 'greaser' at Tuttletown, and required our presence there immediately. Charles and Doc went, and as I write are yet at that place. From information received from Smith, I learn that Ellie was in Joaquin's house drunk, and that Joaquin's wife knocked him down and beat him severely where upon Ellie repaired to this cabin and took his rifle and pistol and started for the town where he met a Mexican, not Joaquin, and shot him. As the boys have not yet returned, I have not heard the results. Charles has just come in and from him I learn that Ellie has been arrested and conveyed to Sonora to await an examination. The 'greaser' is not dangerously wounded. Joaquin and wife are to be arrested tomorrow.

Monday, Sept. 7

R. Pierce has not worked on the claim today. Ellie has an examination tomorrow. Joaquin and wife were arrested today.

Tuesday, Sept. 8

The trouble between Ellie and the Mexicans has been settled for the present. After an examination, they were all discharged by paying cost. Trouble is brewing in the garden

between the fluming company and half a dozen red-mouthed Irishmen, grieving out of the fact that they (the Irishmen) have jumped a claim from the fluming company. It is not known how the matter will terminate. R. Pierce went home today.

Wednesday, Sept. 9

The trouble in the Garden continues. Two of the Irishmen drew pistols today on Gault, but did not fire.

Thursday, Sept. 10

Doc and Riley are working a claim at Kanacka. Our prospect is good; better than it has been since we commenced it. Commenced a letter to Marcia.

Friday, Sept. 11

We shall nearly finish the length of our boxes tomorrow. A special meeting of Methodist is held tonight for the purpose of perfecting themselves in the art of praying.

Saturday, Sept 12

Finished our week's labor today at 4 o'clock, and washed out the sluices. Amount received was \$49.50. Charles went to Springfield to get the dust exchanged.

Sunday, Sept. 13

Nothing important has transpired today. The cooking in the cabin is done by all hands, each one taking his turn at baking bread and boiling potatoes and onions. Went to Jamestown this afternoon with Harry Pierce.

Jamestown is a mining town of considerable note, lying in a South-easterly direction from our cabins, and is only accessible by crossing Table Mountain some three miles distant. There maybe found here, as well as in other mining towns, many loafers and drunken people, and I t presents a lively appearance on Sunday, if at no other time.

Monday, Sept. 14

Have been engaged today at setting sluices and cutting a ditch. At present there are but three at work on the claim.

Tuesday, Sept. 15

Have worked the length of five boxes today. Finished a letter tonight to Marcia. The principal topic of conversation now going on is in regard to good, gold diggings, and good and back luck. Doc has entertained us by relating the history of some of his adventures and the 'ups' and downs' he has met with since his arrival, in 1850.

Wednesday, Sept. 16

Charles is writing to Flen tonight. The usual amount of labor has been done on the claim today. Romandal came back today, but whether it is his intention to re-commence work again, I am not informed little ambition exists among any of us as the claim has not proved as good as was anticipated.

Thursday, Sept. 17

The most interesting news heard of today, is that the Chilano's in one and a half days took out of their quartz vein thirty pounds of gold. I also hear of a greaser that took out a 'chispa' [see June 8 entry] which weighed fifty ounces.

Friday, Sept. 18

Have worked out all the old ground in our claim and made a beginning in the new. The ditch tender has put a gauge into our ditch today and we have to work with less water. For a few nights past we have been disturbed by the howling of dogs, which has roused the superstitious notions of some of the boys.

Saturday, Sept. 19

The result of this week's work amounts to \$33.37 or \$7.00 apiece; water money to be deducted, the smallest amount yet received. It is a matter of doubt whether we continue working this claim any longer.

Sunday, Sept. 20

But little has been done today about the cabin but lounge about. Charles has gone to Tutletown with Frost. Charles and Doc talk of going 'prospecting' this week. I may work another week in the old claim, if the boys conclude to do so.

Monday, Sept. 21

Today we have set sluices and will work another week in the gulch. R. Pierce has again returned, and is working in the gulch. I went to Sonora today to exchange dust but could get but \$17.50 at Street, and went to Springfield but could here get but \$17.75 per oz. Received letter and papers from home by the last steamer.

Tuesday, Sept 22

But little has been done on the "claim" today. Charles and Harry have both taken a jaunt to get a lot of sluices at Mormon Gulch, but each have failed to get them on ground where we want them. We have adopted the method of running down to the first 'cross bar' and 'panning out' each night, as a preventative against robbers.

Wednesday, Sept. 23

This has been a day of ill luck on the claim. Our time has been mostly spent at fixing sluices after they had fell down. A good deal of bad humor exists, and a dissolution of the company is threatened. We succeeded in getting a lot of boxes on the ground today, some of which we purchased for \$8.00. Taylor hauled them for \$2.00.

Thursday, Sept. 24

Better luck has attended us today in the claim. No boxes have fallen and but little 'growling' has been heard. Charles wrote to James Bush tonight. Last night our ears were saluted by most unearthly sound proceeding from some of the "b'hoys". We learned that they were saluting Parson Latimer who was lately married.

Friday, Sept 25

This day we have finished our week's washing, and tomorrow shall pan out'. I was told of a case of meanness today, which occurred in this State a year or two since, from which a profitable lesson may be derived. A man arrived in this country whose mission was similar to thousands of others, namely, to get rich in the least possible time. By starving himself and resorting to anything that his meanness could devise, he managed to save about \$800. It was his usual custom to carry his 'dust' in a box in his pocket, by doing which he had worn a small hole, and the cover of the box becoming detached the gold made its escape gradually and imperceptibly till it had wholly disappeared, again returned to mother earth and nothing remained but a serious lesson which might prove beneficial to him and all others that were acquainted with the facts, who were disposed to deprive themselves of the necessities of life for a few dollars.

Saturday, Sept 26

Harry and myself have all the day been engaged at "tinkering" a lot of old boxes. Charles and R. have 'panned out' and set the boxes. The amount received this week is \$25.

Sunday, Sept 27

Frost and Charles have gone to "Gold Spring".

Monday, Sept. 28

The boys were again on the claim at the usual hour, engaged in various things. Shaw was then bare headed, looking for a mule.

Tuesday, Sept. 29

An amusing scene occurred here today. Taylor's horses became frightened and ran with a wagon making a great many turns 'till at last they cleared it and made for home." Harry was much pleased and manifested his mirth by loud 'yells'.

The Mexicans took from their lead last week 35 lb. of gold. It is a fact that no white man has any luck at mining; it is among Mexicans and "niggers" that we hear of the big strikes.

Wednesday, Sept 30

Nothing note worthy has occurred in these parts today. The usual amount of 'jingling' has been heard and the usual quantity of 'gas' has been blown off. Tomorrow we again set the boxes.

Thursday, Oct. 1

Today we have washed out the sluices and panned out. Charles has quit work with our company. Four hundred twenty-one ounces was taken from the Mexicans quartz vein this week, the amount of two days grinding in the arastos.

Friday, Oct. 2

Charles and R. have left the claim forever, it is probable. Harry and myself have worked alone. Amount taken out this week, \$50.00. The Mexicans today took out \$5000, the result of two days labor.

Saturday, Oct 3

Harry and myself have continued working on the claim today; doing but little, however, in the forenoon. Charles went to Sonora today, but did not dispose of his interest in the quartz.

Sunday, Oct 4

I went to Springfield today, for the purpose of exchanging dust, but failed to do so, and proceeded to Shaw's Flat, where I met with better success. The highest price paid was \$17.87 per ounce. Received a letter from Otis Brown of Pittsburg.

Monday, Oct. 5

"As Monday comes, so Tuesday comes," is an old proverb which has often been repeated by Harry today. It was produced in consequence of the boxes falling down again today. We have continued working, together again today. Charles and Frost have been prospecting for quartz.

Tuesday, Oct 6

Today we are confined to our cabin on account of a heavy rain. It commenced raining sometime last night accompanied by loud peals of thunder, a very sure occurrence for this country. Mrs. Doll died last night.

Wednesday, Oct. 7

It continued raining till noon today, when it cleaned up and I went to Sonora for the purpose of learning something relative to Albert's shares in Water Company, but was not successful. Bought a hat for which I paid \$4.50.

Thursday, Oct. 8

This is the third day that rain has descended, and we have laid ourselves away during the day. It has now cleared up. Charles and Frost have prospected this afternoon. Forty-six pounds of amalgam was taken out of the Chileno vein this afternoon. The result of one days grinding.

Friday, Oct. 9

Charles recommenced working the claim today. Have written a letter home for the mail of Oct. 20.

Saturday, Oct. 10

Finished our week's labor today. Amount realized will no more than pay board bill. Doc and Charles have gone to Tuttletown tonight.

Sunday, Oct. 11

Charles, Doc, and Frost have gone to Tuttle town today. I have been at home during the day, reading and writing.

Monday, Oct. 12

Today closed our labor on the gulch claim which we commenced Aug. 6., two months and one week labor. The amount received by each hand was \$108.

Tuesday, Oct. 13

The forenoon of today has been occupied by dividing boxes, etc which was done in a satisfactory manner. This afternoon, Charles went to Springfield and myself to Columbia. It is said that another big strike has been made near Tuttle town, by a company of drunken miners, from which they took several hundred dollars to a pan. Bought a pair of thin boots for \$4.50.

Wednesday, Oct. 14

Have prospected for quartz today, but with poor success. Labor has been suspended on the Shaw quartz vein.

Thursday, Oct. 15

Have visited a rich Quartz vein from which was taken \$100 to a pan of dirt. The dirt is decomposed quartz of a reddish caste and literally 'lousy'. Several other veins which we visited, are very rich, among them Jeffries near Mormon Gulch.

Friday, Oct. 16

More big strikes have been made today, near the grave yard at Tuttle town, from which 10 ounces was taken. Great excitement exists, and hundreds are prospecting there about. I have prospected for quartz to a limited extent.

Saturday, Oct 17

From the vein struck yesterday \$500 was taken out today.

Sunday, Oct. 18

Charles and Frost went to Sonora last night; have not yet returned. Doc has been to meeting today. I have been at home, reading and writing.

Monday, Oct. 19

Wayne, Frost, and Charles are going on a hunting expedition in the mountains this week. Harry and Ned will go to "Marie's" mill tomorrow probably. More big strikes in quartz have been made near Tuttle town.

Tuesday, Oct. 20

Did not go into the mountains as we anticipated, but went prospecting for quartz in Mormon Gulch. Met with no success; shall try again.

Wednesday, Oct. 21

Completed our prospecting in the Gulch today; met with no better success than we did yesterday. This is the fate that attends hundreds in this vicinity, who are prospecting for gold in quartz.

Thursday, Oct. 22

Nothing of importance had taken place today. The boys have gone to Springfield to procure some "Jacks" to pack their traps into the mountains.

Friday, Oct. 23

I have spent most of today on the Creek and around the cabin. The boys procured two "Jacks" yesterday and are now busy making saddles and preparing for a start for the mountains tomorrow morning. They intend to go to Strawberry Flat.

Saturday, Oct. 24

Bright and early this morning the boys were astir, some packing and others preparing breakfast. The asses were packed, the breakfast ate and the hunters commenced their journey towards the mountains, it being their intention to pack their meats into Sonora. Today I visited Columbia and closed my business relative to the affairs of Albert Woodward. Also went to Sonora and found one letter from C. N. Buck, and another from Father at the P. O. \$12,000 was taken from the arastras of the Mexicans this week.

Sunday, Oct. 25

This has been the dullest day of any I have had for a long time. Smith was at our cabin this forenoon, and Harry this evening. Reading and writing are the only luxuries I have indulged in.

Monday, Oct. 26

Loafing is the order of the day with me. It is hardly possible for me to work the old Nesbit Claim, on account of the Fluming Co. who is engaged at putting in boxes.

Tuesday, Oct. 27

Doc and myself engaged ourselves this forenoon by building a back to the chimney and soon after we made a fire at night the whole fabric fell, burying the fire, hearth, and wood box. We shall not undertake the job again at present. Wrote a letter to Otis Brown.

Wednesday, Oct. 28

My time today has been occupied at overhauling the roof of our cabin, etc., etc.,

Thursday, Oct. 29

Doc, Harry and myself have spent nearly the whole of the day at the cabin, for want of something more profitable to do. Harry will work at the mill in the mountains this winter.

Friday, Oct. 30

Doc, Harry and myself went to French Flat today. A view of the country around from this region is the most beautiful I have seen since visiting California.

Saturday, Oct. 31

Mailed a letter to Otis Brown at Sonora today, to go by the steamer of the 5th of Nov. Had an interview with Street relative to quartz, etc. Assessments amount to about \$150 per share. Have made some effort to dispose of Charles share, and may succeed.

Sunday, Nov. 1

Met Harry Pierce at the old Nesbit Claim. May work it this week, provided we can find another to work with us. Charles is yet in the mountains.

Monday, Nov. 2

Have done nothing worthy of note today. Harry will not commence unless three work together. He will 'neither fiddle or dance'. Have visited Shaw's quartz lead, and find Shaw as fanatical as ever.

Tuesday, Nov. 3

It commenced raining today about noon, and has continued until the present time without intermission.

Wednesday, Nov. 4

The rains continues to descend and no indication that it will stop at present. I have confined myself in the cabin nearly the whole day with Doc.

Thursday, Nov. 5

Rain! Rain! Rain! It rained powerfully last night and this forenoon and we were afraid our canvass roof would take a hasty leave but we escaped any disaster. Commenced a letter for home, to go by the steamer of Nov. 20

Friday, Nov. 6

For want of more profitable business, tried my luck at panning, and in four pans full got about 40 cents. A small shower visited us today, when the clouds cleared away, and before night the weather was not unlike the cold regions of Maine after a storm.

Saturday, Nov. 7

Again tried the shovel, pick and pan, and realized about 35 cents for half a day's labor. Doc is out of employment and discouraged and is on the point of leaving this region. Riley mailed a letter in Sonora for me, directed to L. P. Davis, Sacramento.

Sunday, Nov. 8

Have been in the cabin nearly all day, as also has Doc. Harry and wife made us a visit today. Shall send my letter to Sonora by Harry tomorrow.

Monday, Nov. 9

Doc commenced working in Frost's claim. I have as yet, done nothing in the shape of work.

Tuesday, Nov. 10

Last night, about 10 o'clock, the hunters arrived, having been absent two weeks and two days. They succeeded in killing one deer only.

Wednesday, Nov. 11

Today Charles and myself have opened an old ditch preparatory to working a claim formerly worked by Blalock. For a time, we shall work alone. The weather is quite cool there having been thunder and rain and snow today.

Thursday, Nov. 12

Completed our work on the ditch, etc., and got Taylor to haul the sluices on the claim for which we are to pay him \$1.50. Shall commence washing tomorrow.

Friday, Nov. 13

Have worked today on our claim-the first and last days labor we shall do on it, there being not fall enough to carry off the sand, etc. Charles, Doc, Frost, and Gold intend to work a gulch on Jamison's Rancho next week.

Saturday, Nov. 14

Washed out our sluices and, by competent judges, it was thought that we had 50 cents. I am anxiously awaiting a letter from Sacramento, as my movements depend upon the information received from that place.

Sunday, Nov. 15

Doc is busily engaged at making a "stew"; Charles is puffing his pipe; and I am at present sketching the items I have never before lived in a climate where I could bathe on the 15th of Nov., but I have done the same today.

Monday, Nov. 16

As we could find nothing to do today all hands went hunting, and the result of our efforts was one squirrel and a "blue J".

Tuesday, Nov. 17

The boys had their sluices hauled on the ground today and have set them. I have cut several logs around the cabin.

Wednesday, Nov. 18

The boys have commenced work. Went to Sonora today, but no mail had arrived.

Correspondents:

C. M. Brick
Mrs. B. E. Sargent
L. E. Dearborn
Mary E. Greeley
A. E. Buck
B.E. Sargent

James Bush
Sophonia F. Bigelow
L. B. Whiterell
Geo. W. Witherell
Chas. L. Holmes, Redwing, Min.

Cure for Cholera, Etc.

Dissolve Rock Salt in French Brandy, as much as possible

Dose-Teaspoonful in warm water, until relief is effected. At the same time put a teaspoonful on the head.

For Lumne Cough

1 oz. Turkey rhubarb, table spoonful lux carb soda, 1 gill French Brandy, strong peppermint tea added sufficient to make a pint

Dose-half a glass every hour until it operates as a physic

Recipe for Fever & Ague

Ex. Mandrake and ex. Culver Root (physic)

Emitie

Epicac & Lobilia with equal quantities

Tonic

1 quart French Brandy, ¼ lb. Peruvian Bark, tablespoonful black pepper, a handful English Camomile flowers and a handful of Quassia may be added if a tonic is necessary

Recipe for Fever & Ague

From half pint to a pint of cider vinegar, lukewarm taken internally.

Paid Springfield man \$7.00

Paid B. Baitcher 4.50

Paid B. Baitcher 3.25

A. G. Houston, Stratton & Ayers, 50 Central Street

Fare from Dover to Bangor	\$1.75
Fare from Bangor to Boston	3.00
Fare from Boston to New York	4.00
Coach at Boston	.35
Coach at New York	<u>.50</u>
	\$9.60

From New York to San Francisco \$150.00

From San Francisco to Sonora 12.00

Hampeter

**Frankport
Brecksport
Searsport
Belfast
Camden
Rockland**

**Sunday, June 7
Thursday on June 11
Sunday on June 21
Sunday on June 28
Sunday on July 5
Sunday, July 20
Friday, Aug. 15
Thursday on Sept. 3
Sunday on Sept. 8
Thursday on Sept. 24
Thursday on Oct. 1
Friday on Oct. 16
Wednesday, Oct 28
Saturday, Nov. 14**